

Press Release

To: Arkansas Media
From: Robert J. Alvey, Communications Manager
501-324-9006; fax: 501-324-9012
CC: Governor's Office
Date: November 13, 2000
Re: September meeting of the Authority Board of Directors

Authority Board Approves \$332,112 for Technology Transfer & Research

The Board of Directors for the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority recently approved \$332,110 in funding for awards through three Authority programs and one project: the Technology Transfer Assistance Grant Program (TTAG), the Basic and Applied Research programs, and ADVentures in Arkansas.

During its annual September meeting, the Board approved up to \$128,027 in funds for three Basic Research Grant Program projects in Resolution No. 98-11, as follows:

- "Improved Herpesvirus Thymidine Kinases for Cancer Gene Therapy," (99-B-04) by Richard R. Drake, Ph.D., University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), not to exceed \$43,808;
- "T Cell Immunotherapy of Cervical Cancer," (99-B-08) by Groesbeck P. Parham, M.D., UAMS, not to exceed \$46,401;
- "Dietary Soybean Estrogens and Cardiovascular Reactivity," (99-B-11) by James N. Pasley, Ph.D., UAMS, not to exceed \$37,818.

The Basic Research Grant Program encourages, establishes and supports basic research in science and engineering. It is a competitive (60 percent state: 40 percent institution) matching grant effort to promote and support the growth and development of Arkansas scientists and to enhance the status of science and engineering in Arkansas colleges and universities.

The Board approved funding up to \$144,885 total for three Applied Research Program projects in Resolutions 99-09 and 10, as follows:

- "Investigation of a Hardware Co-processor Solution for Approximate String Matching," (99-A-01) by Dr. David Andrews of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UAF), not to exceed \$50,000. This project is co-sponsored by Acxiom Corp. in the amount of \$50,000.
- "Technical Evaluation of Push-Phase Information Access for On-Line Data Delivery," (99-A-02) by Dr. Hal Berghel, UAF, not to exceed \$44,998. This project is co-sponsored by Acxiom Corp. in the amount of \$45,000.
- "Microbial Inactivation Using MHD Technology," by Dr. David E. Wennerstrom, UAMS, not to exceed \$49,885. This project is co-sponsored by Special Products & Design in the amount of \$24,943.

The Authority's Applied Research Grant Program is a (50:50) cash-matching effort to support applied research in science and engineering. (A match of \$2 from the state is available for every \$1 from an Arkansas business with 50 or fewer employees.) The goal of the Applied Research Grant Program is to stimulate the transfer of science and technology in Arkansas by enhancing opportunities for research partnerships between Arkansas colleges and universities and private industries.

The Board also approved the release of \$50,000 for TTAG awards during the current fiscal quarter. TTAG assists Arkansas' enterprises in developing or improving products or processes through the transfer of technical solutions to technology-based, industry-driven problems, thus enhancing that enterprise's market competitiveness. The Authority will fund up to \$3,750 of costs associated with transferring new or existing technology from a qualified applicant -- such as a public or private enterprise, laboratory, college or university -- to an Arkansas based enterprise.

A separate report to the Board showed that the TTAG Program awarded a total of \$27,820¹ to eight companies based in five Arkansas cities: Dumas, Fort Smith, Fayetteville, Little Rock and Van Buren.

In other business, the Board approved disbursement of \$9,200 in Proposal 99-ADV-02, "ADVentures in Excellence: A Proposal for Continuation and Advancement of the Program," by William L. Dobbins, Arkansas River Educational Services Cooperative at Pine Bluff.

¹ These funds are not included in total funds approved during the September meeting of Board of Directors. The money was released previously by the Board for disbursement during the last fiscal quarter. Disbursement of funds was reported to the Board in September and any remaining funds not awarded are carried over into the next fiscal quarter.

ADVentures in Excellence is the continuation of the Ventures in Education project that was initiated in 1991 to implement an innovative effort for increasing academic achievement among minority and low-income high school students in the Arkansas Delta.

ADVentures' mission is to create lasting school improvement, measured by student performance, through reform in school culture, curriculum and instructional practices, with special emphasis on mathematics and science -- insuring that ADVentures students will be prepared for success in post-secondary education and the workplace.

The Arkansas Science & Technology Authority serves as a statewide funding resource for high quality scientific and technological projects. The Authority endeavors to bring the benefits of science and technology to the people and state of Arkansas through scientific research, technology development, business innovation, and education.

Board Action, September 18, 98/Bdmtg/News/Communications Manager/e